Public Consultation: Modernising and Improving Mental Health Services across West Dunbartonshire

This leaflet provides details of proposed changes to mental health services across West Dunbartonshire and explains how you can make your views known.
Foreword

Around one in four of us will experience mental illness at some point in our lives. When this happens having access to the right treatment and support is vital to help people recover as soon as possible. Fortunately most people with a mental illness can be cared for in the community and only a small number need to be admitted to hospital for treatment. Service users have also told us that, wherever possible, they would prefer to be treated in their own home or in local community facilities.

We recognise, however, that there will always be a need to provide inpatient care for people with severe mental illness. Where possible, we aim to provide these services in modern accommodation which has been designed to meet the specific needs of service users and staff.

There is also a need to provide a range of highly specialist mental health services and it often makes sense to provide these from a single location.

Over the last year, following a major review, we have developed a new strategy to improve mental health services across Clyde, including West Dunbartonshire.

This includes a number of significant service changes which we now wish to publicly consult on.

We believe these changes will result in significant improvements for local service users and their families and we would like to know what you think about these plans.

I therefore hope that you will take time to read this leaflet and take part in the public consultation.

Anne Hawkins
Director of the Mental Health Partnership
NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Introduction

Over the last year, as part of a wider review of health services across Clyde, we carried out a detailed review of local mental health services. This gave us the chance to look at the services currently available, identify gaps and explore what needed to be done to further develop and improve local services.

During the review we held a number of local engagement events across Clyde to update local community groups and service user representatives and hear what they thought about some of the changes proposed. As a result, a number of our original proposals were amended to reflect feedback from local people. Our revised proposals have also been reviewed by an Independent Scrutiny Panel, set up by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing.

This leaflet explains why current services need to change, highlights the main proposals we are now consulting on, outlines some of the wider service developments and tells you how you can put forward your views.

The public consultation started on 9th April and ends on 2nd July 2008.

Why do existing services have to change?

The review found that although there are many examples of good quality mental health services in West Dunbartonshire, historically there has been a lack of investment in community-based services. This means that local people who experience mental illness are more likely to be admitted to hospital for treatment, compared to other parts of the country. It also means that people living in West Dunbartonshire are not currently able to access the same range and type of community based mental health services available to people living in Greater Glasgow.

In addition, many local hospital services are currently based in older accommodation which no longer meets the needs of service users and staff.
The proposed way forward

After completing the review of mental health services, we developed a strategy to improve mental health services across Clyde. An Independent Scrutiny Panel, set up to review a number of our proposed changes to health services across Clyde, concluded that this strategy makes a strong case for change and is very much in line with national policy. However they also asked us to carry out further detailed work, particularly around proposed changes to inpatient mental health services at the Vale of Leven Hospital.

A group, which included patient and public representatives and mental health staff from the Vale of Leven Hospital, was established to review options for inpatient mental health services.

The group considered a range of options including a number which explored the possibility of retaining inpatient mental health services on the Vale of Leven site through a combination of improved accommodation and enhanced out-of-hours medical cover.

After carrying out a detailed assessment, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde’s preferred option is to transfer mental health inpatient services for adults and older people from the Vale of Leven Hospital to the new Gartnavel Royal Hospital. This would bring inpatient mental health services for the whole of West Dunbartonshire together on a single site as patients from Clydebank are already treated at Gartnavel Royal Hospital. It would also address clinical concerns over out-of-hours medical cover, improve accommodation and provide access to a wider range of mental health services and facilities. It is recognised, however, that this option raises a number of issues concerning access and transport which will be explored further during the consultation.

Further information on the review and the range of options considered can be found in the full consultation document and option appraisal report. Both of these documents are available on our website www.nhsggc.org.uk or by phoning 0800 027 7246.
Wider service developments

In addition to the proposals which we are publicly consulting on, we have developed a wider strategy to improve mental health services across Clyde. This strategy will be the subject of further discussion and engagement with relevant service users and stakeholders.

The strategy includes plans to redesign inpatient and specialist mental health services across Clyde. This will free up resources and enable us to invest significant funding to develop local mental health services across West Dunbartonshire. This includes plans to:

**Develop and expand community-based services by:**
- Introducing a new West Dunbartonshire Community Crisis Service to provide additional intensive support for people with a serious mental illness during evenings and weekends.
- Expanding the range of local services available for people with mild to moderate mental illness including ‘talking therapies’ such as Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) which can be offered as an alternative to drug treatment.

**Improve inpatient services by:**
- Transferring continuing (long term) care beds for older people with mental illness which are currently provided at Dumbarton Joint Hospital to more modern accommodation in West Dunbartonshire. This would improve the quality of life for older people by providing modern, single room accommodation in a facility which would be run in partnership with an established provider of elderly care services with patients remaining the responsibility of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.
- Transferring IPCU beds for West Dunbartonshire from Argyll and Bute Hospital in Lochgilphead to Gartnavel Royal Hospital in Glasgow to improve access.

**Redesign specialist services by:**
- Developing low secure inpatient mental health services for Clyde, based at Leverdable Hospital.
- Making the interim arrangement for providing West of Scotland medium secure inpatient services at Rowanbank Clinic on the Stobhill Hospital site permanent.
- Providing access to specialist inpatient addiction services based at Stobhill hospital.

**Benefits**

Collectively these developments will increase the range of mental health services available and ensure these are provided consistently across Greater Glasgow and Clyde. They will also provide more local alternatives to hospital admission.
Tell us what you think

This consultation was launched by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde on Wednesday 9th April 2008 and a copy of the full consultation paper and additional background information can be obtained from our website:

www.nhsggc.org.uk/clydementalhealth

or by calling 0800 027 7246 during normal office hours.

The full consultation document and option appraisal report contains more detail on the review and assessment of inpatient services at the Vale of Leven Hospital and sets out why, after a detailed review, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde’s preferred option is to transfer the inpatient mental health services for adults and older people at the Vale of Leven Hospital to the new Gartnavel Royal Hospital.

The consultation document invites comments on the Board’s analysis and provides an opportunity to challenge our proposal. It also asks for views on the full range of options which we have considered and invites feedback on any other options that have not been considered.

Comments on all aspects of the consultation paper are welcome. You can either email your comments to us at:
clydementalhealth@nhsggc.org.uk

or write to:
John Hamilton, Head of Board Administration, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Dalian House, 350 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G3 8YZ

Consultation meetings

A number of meetings and events have been organised to discuss the proposals and wider strategy with mental health service user and carer representatives and other key stakeholders across Clyde, including the following public consultation events in West Dunbartonshire:

WEDNESDAY 30TH APRIL
Dumbuck House Hotel, Glasgow Road, Dumbarton 1pm – 4pm (buffet lunch available from 12.30pm)

MONDAY 12TH MAY
Dumbarton Football Club, Castle Road, Dumbarton 1pm – 4pm (buffet lunch available from 12.30pm)

If you would like to attend any of these events you must register in advance by calling 0800 027 7246 during normal office hours.

If you would like this information in a different language or format (e.g. large print or audio cassette) please call 0141 201 4915 or email: perl@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

The consultation will end on Wednesday 2nd July 2008.
If you would like this document in Braille or audio-tape format, please contact:

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